

the United States. They have earned a reputation as highly respected businessmen, ministers and politicians. Such distinguished men as American statesman Benjamin Franklin, Composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, French philosopher Voltaire and U.S. President George Washington have all been Brothers in the Masonic order.

My own association as a Brother with my fellow Masons has been a great influence on me throughout my career and in public life. Their moral values and ethical code have been an immeasurable help to guide me in making fair and just decisions in my responsibilities as a Member of this chamber.

Mr. Speaker, hopefully the Athelstane Lodge will continue its good works as a model organization and will continue to help those in need as well as continue to be an exemplary example of fraternal service to our communities for another 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DARRYL A. KELLY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Darryl A. Kelly of Society Hill, South Carolina, whose dedication to his duties as a national guardsman earned him the honor of being the first African American from South Carolina to receive the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

A Society Hill native, Captain Kelly received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Coker College and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Troy State University. He joined the National Guard in 1989, after seven years active duty in the Army, and commands Company "A", 151st Signal Battalion in Laurens, South Carolina. Captain Kelly is also a South Carolina Highway Patrol sergeant with thirteen years experience.

Captain Kelly will receive the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award on May 22, 2002, a distinction bestowed upon only seven Army National Guardsmen in the nation each year. He automatically qualified last month when he won the General James C. Dozier award, which recognizes the South Carolina National Guard's most outstanding company officer for leadership and quality of service. Captain Kelly is not only the first African American from South Carolina to receive the MacArthur Leadership award, but only the second South Carolinian to have this honor bestowed upon him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Captain Darryl A. Kelly, a dedicated guardsman whose service and leadership should be commended. I congratulate him on his receipt of the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award and wish him good luck and Godspeed in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL LAHEY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize IRS Special Agent in Charge of Criminal Investigation, Michael Lahey, for his promotion to Director of the Review and Program Evaluation Section at IRS Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Lahey began his career with the Internal Revenue Service in 1982 as a Special Agent in Miami, Florida. Through his dedication and hard work, Mr. Lahey was selected as the Branch Chief in Boston in 1997. He held that position until his selection as Special Agent in Charge for the Boston Field office in 2000.

As Special Agent in Charge for New England, his team of 140 IRS employees followed the money trail through a wide range of financial investigations. His team has examined cases involving tax evasion, narcotics trafficking, money laundering, public corruption, as well as healthcare and insurance fraud. As a direct result of asset forfeitures from IRS drug trafficking and organized crime cases, the people of Massachusetts have benefited greatly from the substantial sums that have been reinvested in state and local police departments during his tenure in the Boston office.

Mr. Lahey, a resident of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, has been a strong supporter of sports programs for youngsters in his community. He has served as the Director of Minor League Baseball for the Little League and has coached for several years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Michael Lahey for his outstanding service with the Internal Revenue Service. I wish him the best of luck in his new position.

BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes;

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to continue my remarks about H.R. 4546, the fiscal year 2003 Department of Defense authorization act. In my previous remarks, I criticized the House Rules Committee for blocking all amendments, including five I drafted, that would have allowed the House to debate the wisdom of various weapons systems. I also detailed the rationale for my amendments to eliminate the Crusader artillery system.

In my remarks today, I want to discuss another weapons system—the Army's Comanche helicopter—that is behind schedule, over

budget, and unable to meet critical performance requirements.

In at least eight reports since 1986, the GAO has raised concerns about the Army's effort to develop its next generation light helicopter, now known as the Comanche.

Further, the Army itself has recognized problems with the Comanche program, which has been restructured five times since its inception. Previous restructurings have significantly delayed the development schedule, extended the production schedule, and reduced planned quantities.

I personally have been raising red flags about the Comanche program since the late 1990s. The first GAO report I requested on the Comanche was released in August 1999. This report identified a number of cost, quality control, and performance concerns about the Comanche program.

An updated report I requested from the GAO was released in June 2001. This report concluded that the concerns raised in the August 1999 report had only gotten worse.

It is not just the GAO that has raised concerns. The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation has also been critical of the Comanche.

I was pleased to see the House Armed Services Committee imposed a few conditions on the Army's Comanche helicopter program in H.R. 4546.

One of the conditions, a requirement that the Army reassess the cost and timeline of the Comanche program, is similar to what I proposed in an amendment last year.

The other condition, an annual report by the DOD Inspector General, is a useful step in providing for constant, independent oversight of the program.

However, I am concerned that the Committee did not go quite far enough in protecting taxpayers from runaway costs for a program GAO and others have consistently identified as failing to meet testing and performance goals.

The amendment I offered would have prohibited the Pentagon from awarding contracts for low rate initial production (LRIP) until the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, certified that the testing program has been rigorous enough to determine the program performs as expected in an operational environment, in other words, not just in computer simulation or laboratory tests. The amendment also required that the Comanche achieve key performance standards before contracts for LRIP could be awarded.

According to the June 2001 GAO report, a decision on whether to move forward with low rate initial production was expected in June 2005.

It is my understanding that in the year since the GAO report, the Comanche program has fallen even further behind schedule, and a LRIP decision now may not occur until 2008.

Some might argue that my amendment, therefore, was premature. I would argue that given the repeated mismanagement of the Comanche program, Congress must send the unmistakable message that the program will not advance toward production until timing, cost, quality, and performance concerns are all addressed to our satisfaction. My amendment would have sent that message.

Defense contractors push hard to get to LRIP decisions because, once they are over